

Philosophy of Science

PHIL 160, Section 02

Fall 2023

In-person, Meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 10:15 am

Iman Roohnavaz

iman.roohnavaz@sjsu.edu



“An Experiment on a Bird in an Air Pump” (1768) is a painting by Joseph Wright of Derby that brilliantly depicts people’s views toward science. Some people are afraid of science, while some are curious but reluctant; some are indifferent, and some are enthusiastic about what science can bring about. Of course, many may ignore the others if they belong to one of the mentioned groups. But such a person ignores that each group has valuable points to share. In this course, we study some of the mentioned views by scrutinizing what science is and how it has been “developed.” To do this, we study the views of philosophers like Bacon, Hume, Heidegger, Popper, Kuhn, etc. I hope you accompany me on this philosophical journey. Oh! Did I mention that you need not buy anything for this journey/course?!

This 3-unit course satisfies SJSU Studies R: Earth, Environment, and Sustainability.

Prerequisite(s): Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL 100A / LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), completion of Core General Education, and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended.